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expected very much that would illuminate the more technical side of the life of a lawyer who took a prominent part in such noted cases as that involving constitutionality of the federal income-tax law of 1894, the one-time famous Sage-Laidlow episode, or the Standard Oil companies in many of their repeated efforts to resist legislative aggressions. Even the long chapter (covering more than 220 pages) which deals with the four years which Mr. Choate spent as ambassador in England has but little to indicate the real character of the services rendered by the American representative. Now and then are found slight references to the Alaska boundary affair, or to such delicate questions as those bound to come before a neutral representative on the occasion of the Boer war, or to the Russo-Japanese war, but for the most part one reads of the social side of a popular diplomat's round; for official correspondence the reader must seek elsewhere.

It is not a comprehensive, balanced account of Mr. Choate's career, nor was it intended to be that. Taken for what it is and for what it purports to be, the work is a welcome addition to the biographical literature covering the past half century.

The United States in the world war. 1918-1920. By J. B. McMaster. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1920. 510 p. \$3.00)

The second volume of Professor McMaster's history of the United States in the war covers the period from the spring of 1918 to the rejection of the treaty of Versailles by the senate in March, 1920. The account is apparently built up from the careful study of newspaper files, the whole piled together from the day-to-day accounts, rumor followed by contradictory fact as it came. In reading the book one thinks back again to the days when we rushed out into the streets to buy the latest extra, to scan the lines of fact and alleged fact, always trying to pierce the veil, wondering what was really going on, anxious, a little uncertain, but still trusting our chosen leaders.

We sit down with Professor McMaster's volume in the hope that these questions will be answered. But we close the book with most of them still unanswered. It is not the same account, the errors have been eliminated, but the veil still remains. We are left wondering still and must perforce turn to other books to find the answer to our ever-recurring "why?"

Professor McMaster succeeded brilliantly in constructing a history of the American people from 1783 to 1860 from newspapers and speeches. But those materials hardly suffice for an account of the war period. Far too much real history lies behind the statements of newspaper correspondents and the utterances of statesmen. Much of this history is unattainable, much more is only a matter of conjecture. But one feels that

the historian of the war must attempt a solution of these problems, even if the results of his efforts be but meager.

“War is policy carried on by other means,” said Clausewitz. This policy of the United States and its grapples with the policy of the other nations, whether during the war or at the peace conference, finds little reflection in Professor McMaster’s pages. We read again the words of Wilson, but we fail to learn how Wilson strove to square those words with the facts of this wicked world; how far he succeeded, where he failed. And yet the definitive history of the United States in the world war must answer these questions, if it is really to enlighten us as to our share in the struggle.

One of the toughest problems in policy which we encountered in 1918 and 1919 was our relations with Russia. And yet the author dismisses it in half a dozen paragraphs, which, by their condensation, are somewhat misleading. Our whole position toward the near east during the war needs more space than is given to it.

One might proceed on this line of criticism through the chapters on the peace conference down to a clear explanation of why Lodge and Johnson spoke and voted as they did. No one would deny that Professor McMaster’s volume has sound merit. It is a good handbook of the known facts regarding our participation in the war. A history of the United States in the war it is not, for it gives us merely the surface eddies and leaves unsounded many of the deeper currents which give direction to the stream.

MASON W. TYLER

The American engineers in France. By William Barclay Parsons, late colonel Eleventh U. S. engineers. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1920. 429 p. \$4.00 net)

The preface of Colonel Parsons’ book limits its field to the nine regiments of engineers numbered eleventh to nineteenth which were raised at the outbreak of our war with Germany, and which were assigned especial tasks of construction, railroad operation, et cetera, behind the lines in France. Their story is told in twenty-seven chapters, the last of which is a compilation of statistics regarding their activities. The civilian will probably have most interest in a series of chapters dealing with the organization of lines of communication and the establishment of supply depots in France, although the fact that in these chapters Colonel Parsons ignores altogether the use of English ports will make his narrative somewhat misleading. The lay reader will probably be a little disappointed at the lack of thrills in the account of the doings of the American engineers in the “rot” at Cambrai. A good part of Colonel Parsons’ experience seems to have been with the British, and British